

Blessed Trinity Parish

317 Leroy Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14214



Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

We are a loving, welcoming community of Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church, endowed with a diversity of backgrounds, gifts and experiences. Our lives are based on faith, hope and charity, guided by the Holy Spirit and sustained by the sacraments. Our faith life extends to the larger community around us, and we enthusiastically commit ourselves to serve our neighbors and each other.



Rev. Robert L. Gebhard, Jr.
Temporary Administrator

Ms. Patricia Dyer
Pastoral Associate
Religious Education Coordinator

Ms. Elizabeth Clay
Music Director

Mr. Homer Dick
Ms. Madonna Hartzell
Trustees

Mr. Phil Van Dette
Bookkeeper

Ms. Barbara Sercu
Secretary



RECTORY Phone: 716-833-0301
Fax: 716-834-4711
EMAIL blessedtrinitychurch@gmail.com
WEBSITE blessedtrinitybuffalo.org
CENTRAL BFLO. CLUSTER catholicchurchesofbuffalo.com
CONFESSIONS Saturday 4pm
BIBLE STUDY Every Tuesday 4pm via Zoom
ANointing OF THE SICK Will resume post pandemic
VISITS TO THE SICK Call rectory during business hours
BAPTISMS By appointment
WEDDINGS Arrange six months in advance
FAMILY OF PARISHES Ss. Columba-Brigid, St. Martin de Porres, St. Lawrence, Blessed Trinity

Catholic Central Food Pantry - 350 Dewey Avenue

Every Wednesday 9:30am - 1:30pm

716-800-1075



Rectory Office Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
10:30 am - 2:30 pm



Sunday Mass: 10:00 am
Saturday Mass: 4:30 pm

Daily Mass: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri - 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 (7A)
Psalms Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
Second Reading James 5:7-10
Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Dancing and Singing to Joy... for Joy!

Our readings this weekend provoke a spirit of joyful enthusiasm and energy as the limitations, obstacles, and hindrances that befall us in life are lifted free... the blind see, the lame dance, the parched is moved to exulting, the withered blossoms full! Who of us hasn't longed for relief like that from some painful or agonizing weight on our shoulders? Do we recognize that what moves us to every experience of wholesome liberation and joy is the very presence of God to us? As the light of our Advent Wreath burns brighter, let us celebrate every moment of Joy that makes our hearts a bit lighter as God sparks our spirits to life. As a soothing shower can make it impossible for us not to sing to it, may the love of God, that falls soft upon our weary parts, make it impossible for us not to live in a manner that makes others wonder and question what causes us to dance and sing the ways of love and life in JOY!

The Advent Wreath

Once again this year, our circle of live greens holds the story of the significant moments in our past year as a parish. Dried flowers and plants - gathered from flower arrangements from weddings, funerals, or other significant parish events here at Blessed Trinity, and nature around us - all adorn the evergreen branches.... We find ourselves in this weave of fire, light and life! It tells of our journey in and of faith. In other words, our faith - and parish family - is represented there, a reminder that we journey through this season of waiting and watchful attentiveness together. The wreath causes us to pause and consider what has been and what is yet to come as a parish family, and as God's people giving way to considering the birth of Christ that we will celebrate with Christmas and Jesus' promise that He will come again at the end of all time! Please take the opportunity to visit the wreath in our church and see our parish life woven into it. May Emmanuel, God-with-us, be our focus in this season of purple-pink and slowly growing Light!



Congratulations to Daniel & Ashley Commaroto on the baptism of their daughter, Josephine Lou Maria, last Saturday morning here at Blessed Trinity! Dan & Ashley were married here at Blessed Trinity. It is our joy to celebrate

with them the growth of their family, the baptism of their first child, and the blessing of the increase of God's Family of Faith.

One more Alpha Gathering this coming Tuesday evening, December 13th, 5:30 - 7:30PM, at St. Lawrence. Special thanks to all who participated, shared their stories with others, prepared food, facilitated the process and technology, and gathered in a spirit of openness to the possibilities of God! This being our final gathering, if you are able, bring a dish to share for a potluck meal.

-Fr. Bob

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessed Trinity Stewardship - Total offertory collection for December 3/4, 2022, was \$5,140 including Christmas flowers \$182 and fuel \$182.

Saturday, December 17th

Lector: Greg Gaglione

Sunday, December 18th

Lector: Elaine Renouf

Eucharistic Minister: Fidelia Ejimadu

Help aging Religious. Senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests have ministered for little or no pay. Today their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to today's **Retirement Fund for Religious** helps furnish medications, nursing care and other necessities. Please give generously!

Sodality's Holiday Collection ~ Prayerful thanks for the many who have already supported the Sodality's effort to remember our homebound parishioners at Christmas. We are just \$200 short of our goal, and our collection must close this weekend. If you are able to donate, please see Amy Johnson after Sunday Mass. Christmas greetings will include either a grocery store gift card or a Mass card.

Baptized Catholics in grade 10 or above and adults who have not been confirmed are invited to register for Confirmation classes. Classes will begin after the New Year. Please obtain a registration form from the parish office. Registrations are due by December 31. The class day and times will be determined after we have our registrations.

SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



Christmas Community Concert

Sunday, December 18, 3 PM

St. Martin de Porres, 555 Northampton St., Buffalo
Sounds of the season featuring the combined voices of St. Columba-Brigid, St. John Vianney, St. Martin de Pores, New Beginnings Choral Ensemble and others. Free admission!

Concerts for the Soul presents

Christmas Angels of Hope ~ A musical-poetic journey through the magic and mystery of the season with tenor vocalist, Cory James Gallagher, and award-winning poet and writer, Amy Gallagher. **Wednesday December 21, 7 PM. St. Columba-Brigid Church 75 Hickory St., Buffalo.** Contact

Cory at 716-868-2047 to arrange a song dedication.
Free will donation.



You Are Near, Here I am, Lord, These Alone Are Enough — Dan Schutte's music has been part of the heartbeat for the Church for more than 50 years. Some of his most celebrated songs, such as *City of God* and *Sing a New Song*, are from his years of collaboration with the St. Louis Jesuits. One of my favorite Advent hymns, *Beyond the Moon and Stars*, also composed by Schutte, fills my soul with joyful memories of past preparations for the birth of Jesus right here at Blessed Trinity. This piece expresses the very heart of the Advent season: "So great our hunger, Lord, to see your light." It refers to that deep-down ache that we feel in our souls, like a hunger that is never really satisfied. The verses very clearly point forward to the Christmas season with allusions to the journey of the Magi seeking the light of God's star. Chances are good you will hear it again during the Christmas season – it is just that beautiful.

Beyond the Moon and Stars

.....words and music by Dan Schutte

*Beyond the moon and stars, as deep as night,
So great our hunger, Lord, to see your light.
The sparrow finds her home beneath your wing,
So may we come to rest where angels sing.*

*Our eyes have longed to see your loving face,
To live within your courts for all our days.*

*Your roads have led us, Lord, 'cross desert sand.
We place our hopes and dreams within your hand.*

*Upon our darkness, Lord, a light has shone.
You came to dwell with us in flesh and bone.*

*With shining stars at night, and cloud by day,
you brought us here to see your love's display.*

*When life's great journey ends, and day is done,
Then may our eyes behold your Holy One.*

*Beyond the moon and stars, as deep as night,
So great our hunger, Lord, to see your light.
The sparrow finds her home beneath your wing,
So may we come to rest where angels sing.*

Looking forward to seeing Christ's face - beyond the moon and stars.

-Elizabeth Clay



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Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 11, 7 PM, at Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica, 767 Ridge Rd., Lackawanna. This service of Scripture and song dates back to the late 19th century. In it, nine Scripture lessons are included that recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each is then followed by a carol/song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer. Join us for this free family-friendly event and consider making it a Christmas tradition!

Looking for a child-friendly Mass for Christmas Eve? Consider attending Ss. Columba-Brigid at 6 PM December 24. They are part of our Family of Parishes and offer a Mass featuring las posadas - the journey of Mary and Joseph in search of a place to stay.

Doing some Christmas shopping through Amazon? Shop with AmazonSmile and select Catholic Charities to receive 0.5 percent of your total purchase – at no cost to you! It's an easy way to support the more than 125,000 Western New Yorkers we serve. Visit www.smile.amazon.com/about for more information. Thank you for your support!

Fr. Roy Herberger's Nativity Sets Exhibit on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am-4 pm from now until January 8th (except Christmas and New Year's weekends) at



Our Lady of Victory Basilica (lower level), 767 Ridge Rd., Lackawanna. This unique collection features Nativity sets from around the world! If you have any questions, call Fr. Roy at 716-852-2076.

March for Life 2023, Washington, DC - January 19-20, 2023. Make your reservation today. Bus deadline: Monday, Dec. 26. To guarantee your seat on the bus you must register and send payment by the deadline (money non-refundable if payment received after deadline). Hotel deadline: make your reservation before December 20, 2022; call the Washington Plaza at 202-842-1300 and mention Buffalo Diocese. Permission & Health Form for Youth: deadline December 20, 2022. VERY IMPORTANT: return original to the office before the deadline; this is required for final registration. Visit <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife-services/> or email Pro-lifeoffice@buffalodiocese.org

Volunteers are the heart of our community! Catholic Health Services is looking for volunteers for all of our hospital sites – Kenmore Mercy, Sisters of Charity, South Buffalo Mercy and Mt. St. Mary's. Looking for ways to give back? Call Lisa Carey, Supervisor of Volunteer Services at 716-862-1106 or apply online at <https://www.chsbuffalo.org/volunteer>.

Mass



Intentions

- Saturday, December 10** 4:30 pm
† All Souls
Blessed Trinity Parish
- Sunday, December 11** 10:00 am
† In memory of Catherine and Terry Gress
Bucki Family
- Monday, December 12** 11:00 am
† Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families
Estate of Mary Reilly
- Tuesday, December 13** 11:00 am
Special Intention
Barbara Sercu
- Wednesday, December 14** 11:00 pm
Mother's Day Intention
Resurrection Church
- Friday, December 16** 11:00 am
† Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families
Estate of Mary Reilly
- Saturday, December 17** 4:30 pm
† In memory of Barbara Strusienski
Joseph Strusienski
- Sunday, December 18** 10:00 am
† In memory of John Bee
Bud and Mickey Dick
- † In memory of Lawrence and Jeannie Miano
His grateful sister, Mary Kresse

† A remembrance in your will and last testament keeps alive the beauty and works of this church. †

Remember in our prayers all who are sick especially parishioners Sr. Ann Helene, Naoma Allen, Bernice Bradley, Lorna Cameron, Jerry Gallisdorfer, Anthony Hartmann, Patricia Hartinger, Madonna Hartzell, Sionen Laciura, Marilyn Lang, Edward Marien, Fr. George Reger, Mary Ellen Roach, Janeva Tabb, Freddie White, Philip Woods and Pedro Zola.



The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for Desmond Gunning by Luis Clay.
If you are interested in memorializing a loved one or special occasion, contact the rectory at 716-833-0301.

Mass is the highest and greatest form of prayer! Contact the office to request a Mass for yourself, your loved ones, or for any intention. The stipend is \$15.

This week in our Family of Parishes

December 12 – 18, 2022

View our entire schedule on the Family of Parishes Calendar on our website

Monday: December 12

10 – 11:30 AM Food Pantry **STL**

7 PM Bi-lingual Rosary (Spanish/English) via Zoom – click the link on **CB** website <https://www.sscolumbabrigid.org/>

Tuesday: December 13

4 PM Gospel of Matthew via Zoom **BT** – go to date of the meeting and then click link

<https://www.blessedtrinitybuffalo.org/>

5:30 PM Alpha **STL** Final Alpha for this year – Potluck Supper

Wednesday: December 14

9:30 AM—1:30 PM Food Pantry **BT**

12:30 PM BINGO **STL** Doors open 11 AM

4:15 PM Rosary in church **BT**

Thursday: December 15

10—11:30 AM Food Pantry **SLVMI**

6—8 PM Elves wanted! **HOLIDAY HELPERS** to sort toys are needed at St. Lawrence. Go to Parish Hall if you can help!

8 PM BINGO **BT** Doors open at 6:30 PM

Friday: December 16

10 AM—Noon Food Pantry **SLVMI**

Saturday: December 17

9 AM—Noon – Volunteer Elves are need for toy distribution. Many hands make light work and it's always a great time! **STL parish hall**

Sunday: December 18

3 PM Christmas concert featuring the voices of several local choirs and a sing-along! Free! **SMdP**

Our regular weekday Mass schedule

BT Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 11 AM - **STL** Wednesday 6 PM - **SMdP** Monday through Friday Noon

Our weekend Mass schedule

BT Saturdays 4:30PM & Sundays 10AM - **CB** Saturdays 4PM & Sundays 9AM (Spanish) & 11AM, Last Sunday of the month: Bi-Lingual 10AM - **SMdP** Sundays 8AM & 9:30AM - **STL** Saturdays 4:30PM & 10PM & Sundays Noon

BT – Blessed Trinity; **CB** – Columba-Brigid; **STL** – St. Lawrence;

SMdP – St. Martin de Porres; **SLVMI** – St. Lawrence Vineyard Ministries Inc;

FP – Family Promise

BT Weekend masses – livestream on Facebook.
Recorded service available on YouTube later in the day.

VANDERCHER & DICK FUNERAL HOME

2549 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14214
716-832-0150

Homer H. Dick, Jr., Blessed Trinity Trustee